

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 02494 120248Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ADP-00 USIA-12 /027 W

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R 111550Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4534

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC - CS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LATIN AMERICAN TEACHING FELLOW FOR
UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

1; BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, JAVIER SOLIS, HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED BY LETTER TO THE EMBASSY AN AMERICAN JOURNALISM INSTRUCTOR WHO COULD BEGIN IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER 1973 AND CONTINUE THROUGH JUNE 1974. EMBASSY EXPECTS THIS INSTRUCTOR WOULD FALL WITHIN THE CRITERIA OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S LATIN AMERICAN FELLOW TEACHING PROGRAM. THE INSTRUCTOR SHOULD BE QUALIFIED TO TEACH THE "SCIENCE AND THE THEORY OF COMMUNICATION" AND HAVE SOME EXPERTISE IN THE TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF WRITTEN JOURNALISM. UNCLAS.

2. UNCLAS.

SINCE SOLIS WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE JOURNALISM SCHOOL IN JUNE, 1973 HE HAS EMBARKED UPON AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM OF STRENGTHENING AND BROADENING THE SCHOOL'S CURRICULUM. HE EXPECTS THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR, BEGINNING IN AUGUST, TO BE DEVOTED TO DESIGNING A NEW CURRICULUM WHICH HE EXPECTS WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT IN MARCH 1974, THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR. SOLIS HOPES THAT A LATIN AMERICAN TEACHING FELLOW WITH MEDIA EXPERTISE WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO HIM AND THE SCHOOL FOR BOTH CURRICULUM DESIGN AND SOME TEACHING WORK. BEGINNING IN MARCH 1974 THE LATF WOULD BE EXCLUSIVELY INVOLVED

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IN TEACHING. UNCLAS.

3. UNCLAS.

THE LATIN AMERICAN TEACHING FELLOW SHOULD HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF SPANISH, ALTHOUGH FLUENCY IS NOT NECESSARY. IF POSSIBLE, A BACKGROUND IN POLITICAL SCIENCE WOULD BE HELPFUL AS HE COULD TEACH SOME COURSES IN JOURNALISM'S SISTER SCHOOL THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, BOTH OF WHICH FALL WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA'S LAW FACULTY. UNCLAS.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY STRONGLY BACKS THE DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM'S REQUEST FOR A LATIN AMERICAN FELLOW IN THIS FIELD. THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN A TECHNICALLY WEAK BUT POLITICALLY SENSITIZED DEPARTMENT WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO INFLUENCE FOR SOME TIME. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS REQUEST FROM SOLIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY WHICH WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CAPITALIZE UPON, ESPECIALLY SINCE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND ESPECIALLY THE LAW SCHOOL COMPLEX HAVE BEEN STRAINED SINCE THE AID/LAW SCHOOL DISPUTE (TOAID A-42). END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

5. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY REQUESTS A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF THIS TEACHING FELLOW PROPOSAL SO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS COULD BE HELD WITH SOLIS AS TO MODALITIES. END UNCLAS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANJO02494
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730740/aaaabdht.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR LATIN AMERICAN TEACHING FELLOW FOR UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
TAGS: OEXC, CS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005